

got one contract and Mr. Johnson the other. In the previous month a contract for \$27,350 for iron pipe was awarded to one bid, that of Theodore Sturges, of Brooklyn. There may be no truth in it, but it is reported among large iron firms in the city that Mr. Flynn has an interest in the contracts of Mr. Sturges; while this gentleman is said to be indirectly connected with another firm in Philadelphia, that also furnishes Mr. Flynn with large quantities of iron pipe.

Inquiry among iron dealers as to why they did not bid on these contracts was met by the response that Maurice B. Flynn had a monopoly of that kind of business in the Public Works Department, and that they would merely waste time in bidding. There was apparently some ground for this assertion, as shown by the fact that while Mr. Flynn furnished most of the hydrants, stop-cocks and like supplies on orders, yet in the two public lettings for these supplies, made in the first year after Mr. Thompson came into office, Mr. Flynn's firm was successful both times, and in the one public letting in the second year of Mr. Thompson's administration Mr. Flynn was again successful. In fact he was so successful that in one of the lettings, which called for a supply of patent hydrants, on which Julius Johnson held the patent, although Mr. Johnson was a bidder for the contract yet Mr. Flynn outbid him. Mr. Flynn has himself testified that in supplying the material under this contract he purchased a part of it from Mr. Johnson. In connection with this purchase of a patented article it is interesting to note that at that time the city charter provided: "No patented article shall be advertised for, contracted for, or purchased, except under such circumstances that there can be a fair and reasonable opportunity for competition, the conditions to secure which shall be prescribed by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment." No such conditions had been prescribed for the purchase of Mr. Johnson's patent hydrant.

THE ORDERS FOR LAMPS AND METERS. Mr. Flynn has occasionally as "attorney" collected the money on a contract given to some other person not a member of his firm. He is associated with the McKims, who do a large amount of contract business with the Public Works Department. Under the name of "Gold's Heater Manufacturing Company," the Public Works Department was supplied with \$5,950 worth of street lamps by Mr. Flynn's firm—all on orders without any public competition. Mr. Gold, whose name was used as the head of this manufacturing company, was paid a salary. Some time ago "Gold's Heater Manufacturing Company" ceased to supply the Public Works Department with street-lamps, and they were purchased on orders from Alexander Brandon. He has been paid over \$10,000 on orders for these lamps. His son, who is employed by the Public Works Department, is an intimate friend of Mr. Flynn. Mr. Thompson purchases all his lamps and meters of that kind on orders, and in that way has let out a large amount of money without any public letting. The orders for lamp posts, iron, etc., are given principally to the J. L. Mott Iron Works. Mr. Mott is a member of the County Democratic. All of the water meters for the Public Works Department are purchased on orders given to Henry R. Worthington and the National Meter Company. It does not appear whether or not Mr. Flynn is interested in the Meter Company, though such is the report. The work of setting meters, at lucrative prices, is given by Mr. Thompson to members of the County Democratic, on the same plan as that through which Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Flynn flourish.

ONLY FIFTY CENTS BELOW A THOUSAND DOLLARS. How close Mr. Thompson can make his estimates in certain cases, and Mr. Flynn his bids to the \$1,000 limit without reaching it, may be seen from the fact that on December 19, 1881, three bills for one purpose amounted to \$2,498. One of these bills was for \$999.82, only fifteen cents less than the \$1,000 limit. But nearly all of Mr. Thompson's bills to Mr. Flynn are supplies of a similar nature that should be purchased at public bids. The supplies are delivered principally at the pipe yards of the department; and, of course, it would be quite as easy for the department to receive them in large quantities as in smaller lots. In fact it will be seen by the list of orders printed herewith, that Mr. Thompson has frequently given orders for the same kind of supply, dating the orders on succeeding days, the combined amounts much exceeding the \$1,000 limit. But more frequent instances may be seen by comparing orders given Mr. Johnson or Mr. Flynn on the same day for supplies of the same character. On one day the two orders amounted to \$1,895.39, on another day \$1,805; on another day \$1,509, etc. On July 9 Mr. Flynn was given two orders the total of which was \$1,133.76. One of these was for "manhole heads and covers, hydrant covers," and the other for "hydrant covers and stop-cocks and stop-cock boxes." When pipes are laid or alterations made in them, yet for the apparent purpose of evading the law Mr. Thompson would give out separate orders for hydrants, stop-cocks and stop-cock boxes. But when a contract was occasionally made, all three would be included.

ORDERS TO MR. FLYNN'S FIRMS. There is given herewith a list of the orders made to the firm of Guy C. Hotchkiss, Field & Co., and of the orders for hydrants during 1881 and 1882 given to Julius Johnson & Co. The orders given to Mr. Flynn under the name of "Gold's Heater Manufacturing Company," etc., and of contracts, are not included in this list:

TO GUY C. HOTCHKISS, FIELD & CO.

Orders drawn on the order book for "Laying Cords."

| Date of Order. | Nature of Supply. | Amount. |
|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1881. | | |
| January 20. | Stop-cock boxes. | \$942.20 |
| February 7. | Hydrants. | 889.79 |
| February 7. | Hydrants. | 688.00 |
| April 28. | Hydrants. | 585.00 |
| May 7. | Hydrants. | 719.10 |
| June 8. | Hydrants. | 787.00 |
| June 17. | Hydrants. | 785.25 |
| June 30. | Hydrants. | 825.00 |
| July 21. | Stop-cocks. | 636.07 |
| July 21. | Stop-cocks. | 942.20 |
| August 24. | Hydrants. | 825.00 |
| August 30. | Stop-cocks. | 742.50 |
| September 1. | Stop-cock boxes. | 907.40 |
| September 2. | Stop-cocks. | 907.40 |
| September 13. | Hydrants. | 907.40 |
| September 14. | Stop-cocks. | 875.00 |
| October 28. | Hydrants and stop-cocks. | 537.12 |
| October 29. | Stop-cocks. | 492.00 |
| October 29. | Stop-cocks. | 537.12 |
| November 9. | Hydrants. | 704.70 |
| December 17. | Stop-cocks. | 855.00 |
| December 14. | Stop-cock boxes. | 870.75 |
| December 21. | Stop-cock boxes. | 815.50 |
| December 30. | Stop-cock boxes. | 805.58 |
| December 31. | Hydrants. | 825.00 |
| 1882. | | |
| January 19. | Frames and covers. | 169.00 |
| June 19. | Hydrants. | 825.00 |
| July 7. | Stop-cocks. | 487.50 |
| July 22. | Hydrants. | 780.00 |
| August 29. | Stop-cock boxes. | 890.10 |
| 1883. | | |
| February 9. | Hydrants. | 825.00 |
| March 7. | Stop-cocks. | 825.00 |
| April 12. | Stop-cocks. | 186.80 |
| July 10. | Stop-cock boxes. | 985.00 |
| July 23. | Stop-cock boxes and covers. | 560.00 |
| August 15. | Hydrants. | 630.00 |
| September 14. | Stop-cock boxes and covers. | 420.00 |
| September 14. | Stop-cock boxes and covers. | 420.00 |
| September 24. | Stop-cocks. | 570.00 |
| October 23. | Hydrants. | 550.00 |
| October 23. | Hydrants. | 550.00 |
| December 15. | Stop-cock boxes. | 490.00 |
| December 21. | Stop-cock boxes. | 490.00 |
| 1884. | | |
| January 19. | Frames and covers. | \$40,248.68 |

Orders drawn on the Appropriation for "8 years Cleaning and Repairing."

| Date of Order. | Nature of Supply. | Amount. |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 1881. | | |
| January 10. | Manhole heads and covers. | \$693.60 |
| February 12. | Manhole covers. | 110.42 |
| April 1. | Manhole heads and covers. | 128.29 |
| April 1. | Manhole heads and covers. | 97.40 |
| April 28. | Manhole heads and covers. | 128.29 |
| July 8. | Manhole heads and covers. | 150.00 |
| July 8. | Manhole heads and covers. | 97.40 |
| August 18. | Manhole heads and covers. | 907.40 |
| December 23. | Manhole heads and covers. | 94.62 |

| Date of Order. | Nature of Supply. | Amount. |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 1881. | | |
| January 3. | Manhole heads and covers. | \$693.60 |
| February 12. | Manhole covers. | 110.42 |
| April 1. | Manhole heads and covers. | 128.29 |
| April 1. | Manhole heads and covers. | 97.40 |
| April 28. | Manhole heads and covers. | 128.29 |
| July 8. | Manhole heads and covers. | 150.00 |
| July 8. | Manhole heads and covers. | 97.40 |
| August 18. | Manhole heads and covers. | 907.40 |
| December 23. | Manhole heads and covers. | 94.62 |

Total, 55 orders, amounting to \$41,928.87

Orders drawn on the Appropriation for "8 years Cleaning and Repairing."

| Date of Order. | Nature of Supply. | Amount. |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------|
| 1881. | | |
| January 7. | Repeating hydrants. | \$357.50 |
| January 24. | Tapping cocks. | 650.00 |
| February 7. | Stop-cock boxes. | 805.52 |
| February 7. | Stop-cock boxes. | 805.52 |
| February 8. | Stop-cocks. | 290.00 |
| February 9. | Hydrants. | \$87.25 |
| February 9. | Hydrants. | 89.15 |
| February 9. | Stop-cocks. | 89.15 |
| April 8. | Hydrants, etc. | 975.00 |
| May 17. | Stop-cock covers. | 290.00 |
| May 17. | Hydrants. | 290.00 |
| May 24. | Hydrants. | 290.00 |
| June 17. | Tapping cock boxes. | 290.00 |
| June 25. | Tapping cock boxes. | 290.00 |
| June 25. | Hydrants and waste cocks. | 950.00 |
| July 2. | Repeating hydrants. | 942.00 |
| August 14. | Hydrants. | 147.10 |
| August 14. | Tapping cock boxes. | 950.00 |
| August 30. | Tapping cocks. | 950.00 |
| September 21. | Pic lead. | 262.50 |
| September 30. | Brass plugs, etc. | 262.50 |
| September 30. | Repeating hydrants. | 262.50 |

1882.

| Date of Order. | Nature of Supply. | Amount. |
|----------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| January 3. | Tapping cocks. | \$325.00 |
| January 3. | Hydrants. | 403.62 |
| January 3. | Repeating hydrants. | 760.00 |
| February 1. | Repeating hydrants. | 760.00 |
| February 16. | Tapping cocks. | 883.50 |
| February 16. | Hydrant caps, etc. | 883.50 |
| March 1. | Stop-cocks. | 855.00 |
| March 14. | Stop-cock boxes and covers. | 745.45 |
| March 30. | Stop-cock boxes and covers. | 745.45 |
| March 30. | Stop-cock boxes and covers. | 745.45 |
| May 24. | Hydrant caps, etc. | 241.00 |
| June 2. | Tapping cock boxes. | 587.25 |
| June 13. | Tapping cocks. | 870.00 |
| June 17. | Stuffing boxes, etc. | 80.10 |
| July 19. | Tapping cocks. | 900.00 |
| July 19. | Hydrants repaired. | 375.00 |
| September 9. | Hydrants. | 587.25 |
| September 9. | Tapping cocks. | 291.93 |

1883.

| Date of Order. | Nature of Supply. | Amount. |
|----------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| January 27. | Tapping cocks. | \$920.50 |
| January 27. | Stop-cock boxes and covers. | 825.00 |
| March 1. | Hydrants. | 587.25 |
| March 12. | Tapping cocks. | 805.00 |
| March 27. | Tapping cocks. | 805.00 |
| April 12. | Stop-cocks. | 690.00 |
| April 12. | Hydrants. | 690.00 |
| July 10. | Tapping cocks. | 690.00 |
| July 26. | Tapping cocks. | 690.00 |
| August 13. | Hydrants. | 455.00 |
| August 21. | Stop-cocks. | 530.00 |
| August 21. | Stop-cocks. | 530.00 |
| August 21. | Hydrants. | 480.00 |
| September 6. | Stop-cocks. | 480.00 |
| September 27. | Pic lead. | 241.00 |
| September 27. | Hydrants. | 241.00 |
| October 21. | Hydrants. | 480.00 |
| October 21. | Hydrants. | 480.00 |
| October 26. | Tapping cocks. | 545.00 |
| November 3. | Tapping cocks. | 480.00 |
| November 3. | Tapping cocks. | 480.00 |
| November 27. | Bolt ends. | 120.00 |
| December 15. | Lead. | 225.00 |

Total—74 orders amounting to \$42,227.81

1884.

| Date of Order. | Nature of Supply. | Amount. |
|----------------|---------------------|---------|
| April 1. | Axes. | \$50.00 |
| April 1. | Axes. | 50.00 |
| June 14. | Lamp posts. | 740.00 |
| September 27. | Lamp posts. | 740.00 |
| October 7. | Employer's. | 169.83 |
| November 10. | Wool bales. | 169.83 |
| November 12. | Iron castings. | 94.45 |
| December 10. | Grate for Aqueduct. | 98.50 |
| December 10. | Grate for Aqueduct. | 98.50 |
| December 19. | Grate for Aqueduct. | 99.35 |

1882.

| Date of Order. | Nature of Supply. | Amount. |
|----------------|---------------------|---------|
| January 13. | Labor and material. | \$17.85 |
| January 13. | Stop-cocks. | 657.50 |
| January 13. | Labor and material. | 181.99 |
| February 13. | Valve cover. | 62.81 |
| April 3. | Repairs. | 312.86 |
| September 11. | Supplies. | 216.97 |
| November 25. | Gear wheels. | 334.77 |
| December 17. | Iron. | 80.98 |

1883.

| Date of Order. | Nature of Supply. | Amount. |
|----------------|---------------------|---------|
| January 13. | Labor and material. | \$17.85 |
| January 13. | Stop-cocks. | 657.50 |
| January 13. | Labor and material. | 181.99 |
| February 13. | Valve cover. | 62.81 |
| April 3. | Repairs. | 312.86 |
| September 11. | Supplies. | 216.97 |
| November 25. | Gear wheels. | 334.77 |
| December 17. | Iron. | 80.98 |

1884.

| Date of Order. | Nature of Supply. | Amount. |
|----------------|---------------------|---------|
| January 13. | Labor and material. | \$17.85 |
| January 13. | Stop-cocks. | 657.50 |
| January 13. | Labor and material. | 181.99 |
| February 13. | Valve cover. | 62.81 |
| April 3. | Repairs. | 312.86 |
| September 11. | Supplies. | 216.97 |
| November 25. | Gear wheels. | 334.77 |
| December 17. | Iron. | 80.98 |

1885.

| Date of Order. | Nature of Supply. | Amount. |
|----------------|---------------------|---------|
| January 13. | Labor and material. | \$17.85 |
| January 13. | Stop-cocks. | 657.50 |
| January 13. | Labor and material. | 181.99 |
| February 13. | Valve cover. | 62.81 |
| April 3. | Repairs. | 312.86 |
| September 11. | Supplies. | 216.97 |
| November 25. | Gear wheels. | 334.77 |
| December 17. | Iron. | 80.98 |

1886.

| Date of Order. | Nature of Supply. | Amount. |
|----------------|---------------------|---------|
| January 13. | Labor and material. | \$17.85 |
| January 13. | Stop-cocks. | 657.50 |
| January 13. | Labor and material. | 181.99 |
| February 13. | Valve cover. | 62.81 |
| April 3. | Repairs. | 312.86 |
| September 11. | Supplies. | 216.97 |
| November 25. | Gear wheels. | 334.77 |
| December 17. | Iron. | 80.98 |

1887.

| Date of Order. | Nature of Supply. | Amount. |
|----------------|---------------------|---------|
| January 13. | Labor and material. | \$17.85 |
| January 13. | Stop-cocks. | 657.50 |
| January 13. | Labor and material. | 181.99 |
| February 13. | Valve cover. | 62.81 |
| April 3. | Repairs. | 312.86 |
| September 11. | Supplies. | 216.97 |
| November 25. | Gear wheels. | 334.77 |
| December 17. | Iron. | 80.98 |

1888.

| Date of Order. | Nature of Supply. | Amount. |
|----------------|---------------------|---------|
| January 13. | Labor and material. | \$17.85 |
| January 13. | Stop-cocks. | 657.50 |
| January 13. | Labor and material. | 181.99 |
| February 13. | Valve cover. | 62.81 |
| April 3. | Repairs. | 312.86 |
| September 11. | Supplies. | 216.97 |
| November 25. | Gear wheels. | 334.77 |
| December 17. | Iron. | 80.98 |

1889.

| Date of Order. | Nature of Supply. | Amount. |
|----------------|---------------------|---------|
| January 13. | Labor and material. | \$17.85 |
| January 13. | Stop-cocks. | 657.50 |
| January 13. | Labor and material. | 181.99 |
| February 13. | Valve cover. | 62.81 |
| April 3. | Repairs. | 312.86 |
| September 11. | Supplies. | 216.97 |
| November 25. | Gear wheels. | 334.77 |
| December 17. | Iron. | 80.98 |

TO SAVE THE NORTH WOODS.

A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE STATE SURVEY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TRIBUNE.

SIR: In response to your request that I would put in writing my views regarding the preservation of the Adirondack forests, I beg to say that, while much is known and understood concerning both the physical and political side of this important question, there is yet so great a deficiency in exact knowledge, there is yet so great a deficiency in the problem that all opinions must at present be held subject to modification and revision, and my views as to the best method of reaching the desired end must be considered as mere suggestions of what may possibly prove to be the true outlines of a State policy toward the Great Woods.

Regarding the necessity for State intervention for the preservation of the northern forests, may I briefly call attention to some of the things that are known and some that are yet to be learned?

THE RAINFALL NOT MATERIALLY INCREASED.

First, as respects the effect of the woods upon rainfall in this State:

In spite of the published opinion of Professor Sargent and other authorities that the cutting off of woods would not affect the rainfall of Northern New-York, the contrary has so recently been asserted before the committee of the Chamber of Commerce that the facts that are known in this report should be stated. In the forthcoming annual report of the State Survey will be found reprinted tables of rainfall in the central, northern and western part of the State from 1826 to the present time, covering the period during which a great part of the forests has been cut off and the lands brought under cultivation.

At Rochester the mean annual rainfall from 1830 to 1879 was 34 inches. Classifying the observations into three periods the result is as follows:

| Period. | Mean annual rainfall. |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1830 to 1850. | 33.97 inches |
| 1850 to 1871. | 34.87 inches |
| 1871 to 1879. | 37.23 inches |

Showing a gradual increase of the rainfall at the same time that clearing has been progressing in the western part of the State.

At Auburn, Cayuga County, from 1827 to 1850, the mean annual rainfall was 46.62 inches. Classified in periods the result is as follows:

| Period. | Mean annual rainfall. |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1827 to 1839. | 42.40 inches |
| 1839 to 1850. | 46.14 inches |

Showing a slight decrease of rain during those twenty-two years.

At Cazenovia, Madison County, from 1830 to 1879, the mean annual rainfall was 35.57 inches. Classified results are:

| Period. | Mean annual rainfall. |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1830 to 1839. | 37.75 inches |
| 1839 to 1850. | 39.74 inches |
| 1850 to 1879. | 38.22 inches |

Showing an increase of rain from 1830 to 1850.

At Pierpont Manor, Jefferson County, from 1850 to 1872, the average rainfall was 36.10 inches:

| Period. | Mean annual rainfall. |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1850 to 1861. | 36.10 inches |
| 1861 to 1872. | 38.22 inches |

Showing a decided increase of rain from 1850 to 1872.

At Potsdam, St. Lawrence County, from 1828 to 1847, the mean annual rainfall was 28.73 inches:

| Period. | Mean annual rainfall. |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1828 to 1839. | 28.73 inches |
| 1839 to 1847. | 28.73 inches |

Showing a slight decrease of rain.

At Albany:

| Period. | Mean annual rainfall. |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 1826 to 1850. | 39.75 inches |
| 1850 to 1870. | 39.75 inches |
| 1870 to 1880. | 37.73 inches |

Showing a slight decrease in the rainfall since 1826.

These figures are conclusive proof that the rainfall of the State has not been materially affected by cutting off the forest, since the greater part of the clearing has been done during the past sixty years.